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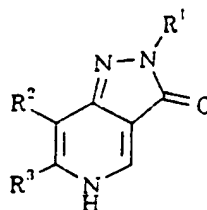


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07D 471/04, A61K 31/435		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/48892
			(43) International Publication Date: 30 September 1999 (30.09.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/00803		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 16 March 1999 (16.03.99)		Published <i>With international search report.</i>	
(30) Priority Data: 9806102.1 20 March 1998 (20.03.98) GB			
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(54) Title: PYRAZOLO-PYRIDINE DERIVATIVES AS LIGANDS FOR GABA RECEPTORS			
(57) Abstract <p>A class of pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one derivatives, substituted at the 2-position by an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl moiety, and having pendant substituents at the 7-position and optionally also at the 6-position, are selective ligands for GABA_A receptors, in particular having high affinity for the $\alpha 2$ and/or $\alpha 3$ subunit thereof, and are accordingly of benefit in the treatment and/or prevention of disorders of the central nervous system, including anxiety and convulsions.</p>			

CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I, or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

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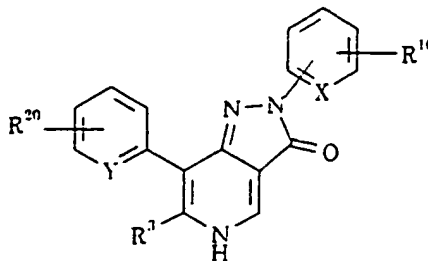
wherein

R¹ represents aryl or heteroaryl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted;

- 10 R² represents halogen; or C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl or heteroarylaminocarbonyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and

- 15 R³ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or trifluoromethyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 represented by formula II, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(II)

20

wherein

R³ is as defined in claim 1;

X and Y independently represent CH or nitrogen;

R¹⁰ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl,
5 C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, halogen, cyano or trifluoromethyl; and

R²⁰ represents hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkynyl,
di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₂₋₆)alkynyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl,
oxo(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl, C₂₋₆
10 alkoxy carbonyl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇
heterocycloalkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkylcarbonyl,
spiroheterocyclyl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆ alkylheteroaryl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl-
(C₁₋₆)alkylheteroaryl, C₁₋₆ alkyl(C₃₋₇)heterocycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylheteroaryl,
heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, heteroaryl(C₂₋₆)alkynyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, amino,
15 di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino,
C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, di[(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl]amino,
heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonylamino,
amino(C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino, C₂₋₆ alkoxy carbonylamino-
(C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, halogen,
20 cyano or nitro.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R³
represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

25 4. A compound as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein R¹⁰
represents hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, fluoro or chloro.

5. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4 wherein
R²⁰ represents hydroxymethyl, benzylaminomethyl,
30 pyridinylmethylaminomethyl, hydroxypropynyl, dimethylaminopropynyl,
piperazinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinonyl, methyl-piperazinyl, *tert*-

butoxycarbonyl-piperazinyl, pyrrolidinylmethyl, pyrrolidinylcarbonyl, methyl-piperazinylcarbonyl, 1-oxa-8-azaspiro[4.5]dec-3-en-3-yl, pyridinyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, azabenzimidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, methylimidazolyl, morpholinylmethyl-triazolyl, methylpiperazinylmethyl-
 5 triazolyl, pyridinylethyl, pyridinylethynyl, hydroxy, methoxy, amino, dimethylamino, acetylamino, methylsulphonylamino, cyclopropylmethyl-amino, di(cyclopropylmethyl)amino, pyridinylmethylamino, ethylaminocarbonylamino, 2-amino-2-methylpropionamido, *tert*-butoxycarbonylaminomethyl-carbonylamino, methoxycarbonyl,
 10 aminocarbonyl, chloro, iodo, cyano or nitro.

6. A compound selected from:

- 2,5-dihydro-2,7-diphenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 2,5-dihydro-2-phenyl-7-propylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 15 2,5-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-propylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-propylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 7-benzyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 7-benzyl-2,5-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 3,5-dihydro-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine-7-carboxylic acid
 20 propylamide;
 3,5-dihydro-3-oxo-2-phenyl-2*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine-7-carboxylic acid
 thiazol-2-ylamide;
 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-phenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-
 one;
 25 2,5-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-7-phenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-
 3-one;
 2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-2,7-diphenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
 2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)-7-phenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-
 3-one;
 30 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-phenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-
 one;

- 6-ethyl-2,5-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-phenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 6-ethyl-2,5-dihydro-2,7-diphenylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2,5-dihydro-2,7-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 5 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2,7-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(3-methoxyphenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 10 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(2-methoxyphenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 15 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(3-iodophenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(thiophen-2-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 20 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(pyrrolidin-1-ylcarbonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 25 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-ylcarbonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 30

- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(morpholin-4-yl)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-nitrophenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 5 7-(3-aminophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(3-pyridylmethylamino)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 10 *N*-[3-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,5-dihydro-6-methyl-3-oxo-2*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-7-yl]phenyl]methanesulphonamide;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 15 *N*-[3-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,5-dihydro-6-methyl-3-oxo-2*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-7-yl]phenyl]-*N'*-(ethyl)urea;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2,5-dihydro-2-phenyl-7-(4-pyridyl)pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 20 7-(4-aminophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 7-(4-acetamidophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 7-[4-(4-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl)phenyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 25 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(piperazin-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(pyrrolidin-2-on-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 30 7-[4-(2-amino-2-methylpropionamido)phenyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;

- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
7-[4-(*N*-*tert*-butoxycarbonylglycinamido)phenyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
5 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
and salts and prodrugs thereof.

7. A compound selected from:

- 10 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-(4-cyanophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
7-(3-cyanophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethylamino)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
15 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-[4-(*N,N*-di(cyclopropylmethyl)amino)phenyl]-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-[4-(*N*-cyclopropylmethylamino)phenyl]-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
20 7-(4-carboxamidophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(3-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(pyridin-2-ylmethylaminomethyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
25 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethylaminomethyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
7-[4-(benzylaminomethyl)phenyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
30 7-(3-carboxamidophenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;

- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl]-6-methyl-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 5 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(4-iodophenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(3-dimethylaminoprop-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[4-(imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]-6-methyl-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 10 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[4-(imidazol-2-yl)phenyl]-6-methyl-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(1,2,3-triazol-5-yl)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 15 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(thiazol-2-yl)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[4-(3-hydroxyprop-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl]-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 20 7-[4-(6-azabenzimidazol-2-yl)phenyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 7-(2-acetyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indol-6-yl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 25 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-(2-ethyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indol-6-yl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[2-(dimethylaminomethyl)indol-5-yl]-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 7-(benzimidazol-5-yl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 30

- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(4-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1,2,3-triazol-5-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(4-(morpholin-4-methyl)-1,2,3-triazol-5-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 5 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(2-(pyridin-2-yl)eth-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 10 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)phenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[4-(1-oxa-8-azaspiro[4.5]dec-3-en-3-yl)phenyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 15 7-bromo-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-iodo-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(2-ethoxycarbonylethenyl)-6-methyl-
- 20 pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 7-(2-carboxamidoethenyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethenyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 25 7-benzyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 7-(2-carboxamidoethyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-
- 30 methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;

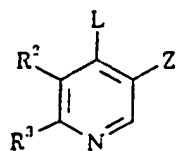
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[2-(pyridin-2-yl)ethenyl]-
pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(3-dimethylaminoprop-1-ynyl)-6-methyl-
pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 5 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-(thien-3-yl)pyrazolo[4,3-
c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,5-dihydro-6-methyl-3-oxo-2*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridine-
7-carboxylic acid ethyl ester;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethenyl]-6-methyl-
10 pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-ethyl-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-
one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(2-methylpropyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-
c]pyridin-3-one;
- 15 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[2-(pyridin-2-
yl)ethyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[2-(piperidin-2-yl)ethyl]-
pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(morpholin-4-yl)prop-1-ynyl]-
20 pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-hydroxymethyl-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-
c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[2-oxo-3-(1,2,4-triazol-1-
yl)propyl]-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 25 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[3-(imidazol-1-yl)-2-oxopropyl]-6-methyl-
pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[*N*-(2-methyl-2*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-
yl)methyl]aminomethylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(3-methoxycarbonylpropyl)-6-
30 methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;

- 7-(3-carboxamidopropyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-
pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
7-(3-benzoyloxypropyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-
methylpyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
- 5 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-[3-(3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-
yl)propyl]pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-7-(3-cyanopropyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-
c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-6-methyl-7-(pyridin-3-yl)pyrazolo[4,3-
10 c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-[3-(1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)propyl]-6-methyl-
pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-3-one;
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,5-dihydro-7-(3-hydroxypropyl)-6-methylpyrazolo[4,3-
c]pyridin-3-one;
- 15 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

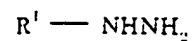
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of
formula I as defined in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
thereof or a prodrug thereof in association with a pharmaceutically
20 acceptable carrier.

9. The use of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof for the
manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of
25 anxiety.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in
claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound of formula III with a
hydrazine derivative of formula IV, or an acid addition salt thereof:
30



(III)



(IV)

wherein R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1, L represents a readily
displaceable group, and Z represents a reactive carboxylate moiety; and
5 subsequently, if desired, converting a compound of formula I initially
obtained into a further compound of formula I by standard methods.

11. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of anxiety
which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an
10 effective amount of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.